

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 96

Introduced by Assembly Member Olsen

February 12, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 96—Relative to the 150th anniversary of the California State Park System.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 96, as introduced, Olsen. The 150th anniversary of the California State Park System.

This measure would recognize the 150th anniversary of the California State Park System and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating this important anniversary of our state park system.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The first state park was conceived in California in
2 1862. Captain Israel Ward Raymond and California's United States
3 Senator John Conness wanted to have natural land areas at
4 Yosemite set aside purely for the purpose of preservation and
5 public enjoyment. At Raymond's request, Senator Conness
6 introduced a bill that quickly passed through both Congressional
7 houses. President Abraham Lincoln signed The Yosemite Grant
8 Act on June 30, 1864, which granted the Yosemite Valley, and the
9 Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Governor
10 Frederick Low accepted the grant in September of that year; and
11 WHEREAS, The first state historic monument was a statute of
12 James Marshall erected in 1890 near his gold discovery site in
13 Coloma, and other historic sites have since been preserved,

1 including Fort Ross, Sonoma Mission, Pio Pico's home, and
2 Sutter's Fort; and

3 WHEREAS, In recent years, the state park system has expanded
4 to include off-highway vehicle parks and underwater parks; and

5 WHEREAS, California state parks maintain not only the natural
6 beauty of the state, but provide valuable spaces for recreation,
7 escape, history, and a special place for contemplation; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department of Parks and Recreation currently
9 manages 280 park units, which contain the finest and most diverse
10 collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to be
11 found within California. These treasures are as diverse as California
12 and include (1): the last stands of primeval redwood forests and
13 vast expanses of fragile desert; (2) the lofty Sierra Nevada and the
14 broad sandy beaches of our southern coast; and (3) the opulence
15 of Hearst Castle and the vestiges of colonial Russia; and

16 WHEREAS, California's state parks contain the largest and
17 most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state
18 agency in the nation. State park units include underwater preserves,
19 reserves, and parks; redwood, rhododendron, and wildlife reserves;
20 state beaches, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and reservoirs;
21 state historic parks, historic homes, Spanish era adobe buildings,
22 including museums, visitor centers, cultural reserves, and preserves;
23 as well as lighthouses, ghost towns, waterslides, conference centers,
24 and off-highway vehicle parks. These parks protect and preserve
25 an unparalleled collection of culturally and environmentally
26 sensitive structures and habitats, threatened plant and animal
27 species, ancient Native American sites, historic structures and
28 artifacts, and demonstrate the best of California's natural and
29 cultural history; and

30 WHEREAS, The California state park system is responsible for
31 almost one-third of California's scenic coastline, which includes
32 nearly 300 parks, beaches, trails, wildlife areas, open spaces,
33 off-highway vehicle areas, and historic sites. It consists of
34 approximately 1.59 million acres, including over 339 miles of
35 coastline, 974 miles of lake, reservoir and river frontage,
36 approximately 15,000 campsites and alternative camping facilities,
37 and 4,456 miles of nonmotorized trails; and

38 WHEREAS, Since 1864, grassroots activism and legislation
39 have made it possible for all Californians to take pride and
40 ownership of their unique and diverse landscapes. Parks maintain

1 not only the natural beauty of California, but provide recreation,
2 escape, history and a special place for contemplation and reflection;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The California state park system continues as a
5 national and world leader in conservation and today, and into the
6 future, our state parks preserve land, biosystems, and historic sites
7 for public use; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
9 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the 150th
10 anniversary of the California state park system and urges all
11 Californians to join in celebrating this important anniversary of
12 our state park system; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
14 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.